

March 31, 2023

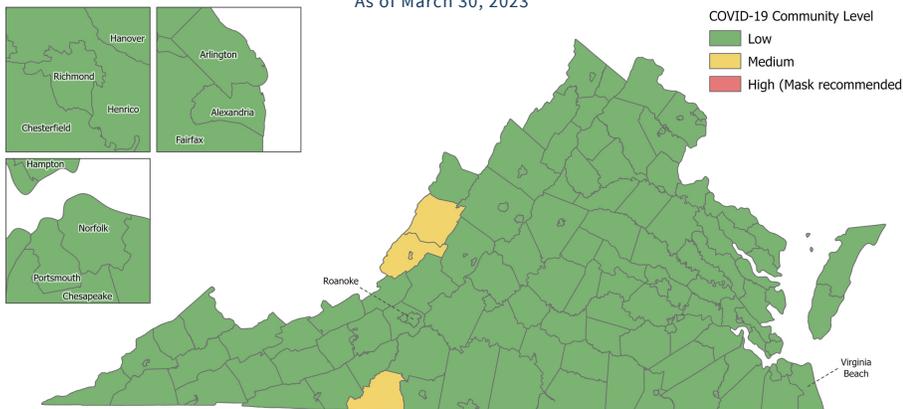
Key Takeaways

- After all Virginia localities were at low COVID-19 Community Levels according to the CDC last week, 4 localities with 42,000 residents are to Medium levels this week. Virginia also continues to be at Low influenza intensity levels, with 2 of 5 regions at minimal levels.
- COVID-19 and influenza hospital admissions continue to decrease. Nevertheless, there were 233 COVID-19 admissions in Virginia last week, a decrease of 20% from last week.
- The first COVID-19 and influenza combined test will be available in the US.
- WHO updates COVID-19 vaccine recommendations prioritizing the use of COVID-19 vaccines, to reflect the impact of Omicron and high population-level immunity due to infection and vaccination.
- Marburg Virus Disease outbreaks continue in Africa, affecting Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania. A cause of a third outbreak in Burundi has yet to be confirmed.

Key Figures

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

As of March 30, 2023



Source: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

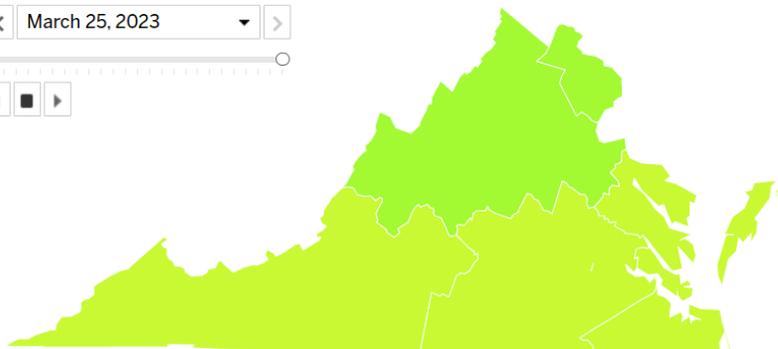
Influenza Intensity Levels

Week Ending Date

< March 25, 2023 >

Progress bar for the week ending date.

Navigation arrows for the week ending date.



Source: [VDH Influenza Surveillance](#)

COVID-19

0 High / 4 Med

Virginia Localities at High/Medium COVID-19 Community Levels as of March 30, 2023

13%

Chance that Virginia will experience a COVID-19 case surge before July 2023. (Metaculus [forecast](#))

Influenza

0

Regions at Moderate, High or Very High Intensity Levels

Mpox

6

Metaculus [forecast](#) of the number of mpox cases Virginia will register in the 2nd Quarter of 2023

Avian Flu

418,000

Metaculus [forecast](#) of the number of Virginia poultry that will be "affected" (culled) in 2023 due to Avian flu

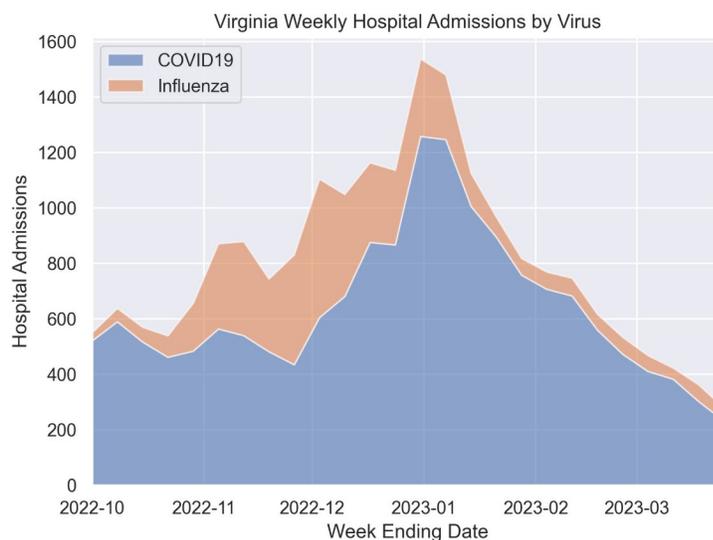
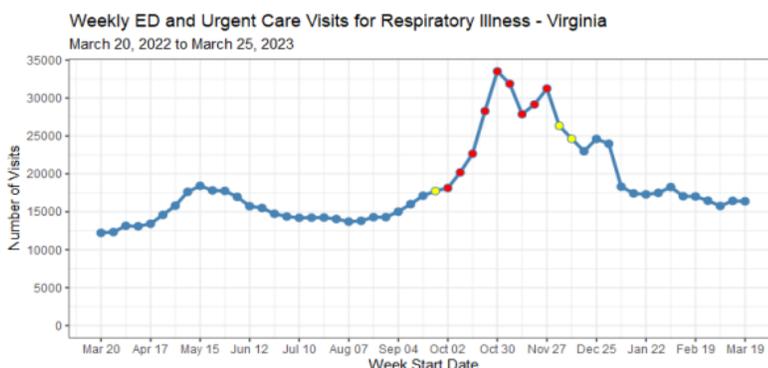
Spotlight:
Marburg Outbreaks

Respiratory Illness

Takeaways

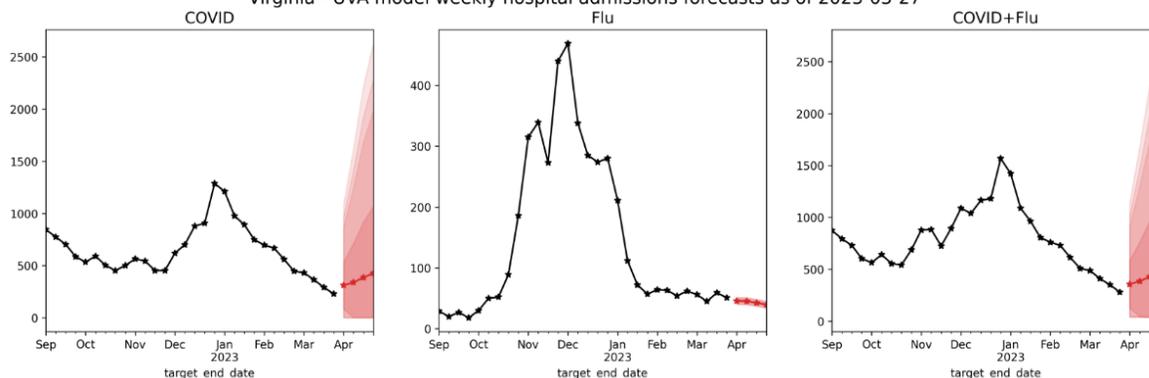
- **COVID-19 community levels.** For the second week in a row, no Virginia localities are at medium or high CDC COVID-19 community levels.
- **Influenza continues to be low in Virginia.** Virginia is at Low intensity levels. Two of five regions are at Minimal intensity, with the rest at Low.
- **National Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) levels are below baseline.** ILI levels are at baseline in [HHS Region 3](#), which includes Virginia. Seven out of ten HHS regions are below their regional baseline.
- **COVID-19 and influenza combined at-home tests will be available in US.** Lucira [announced](#) the launch of the first at-home combination COVID-19 and flu test in the US following the [February Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- **WHO vaccine advisers update COVID vaccine recommendations.** WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) [revised guidance](#) targets three priority-use groups for COVID-19 vaccination: high, medium, and low. The priority groups are based on risk of severe disease and death, and consider vaccine performance, cost-effectiveness, programmatic factors and community acceptance.

Respiratory Disease Activity



Weekly Hospitalizations Short-term COVID-19 and Influenza Forecasts

Virginia - UVA model weekly hospital admissions forecasts as of 2023-03-27



According to short-term forecasts from the UVA Biocomplexity Institute, hospitalizations from Influenza and COVID-19 are expected to plateau in Virginia. Source: [UVA-BI](#).

Spotlight



An "unofficial" map of Marburg and Marburg-like outbreaks from University of Nebraska Medical College Global Center for Health Security, showing the geographic spread. Marburg Virus has previously been identified in migratory bats. Source: [UNMC-GCHS](#).

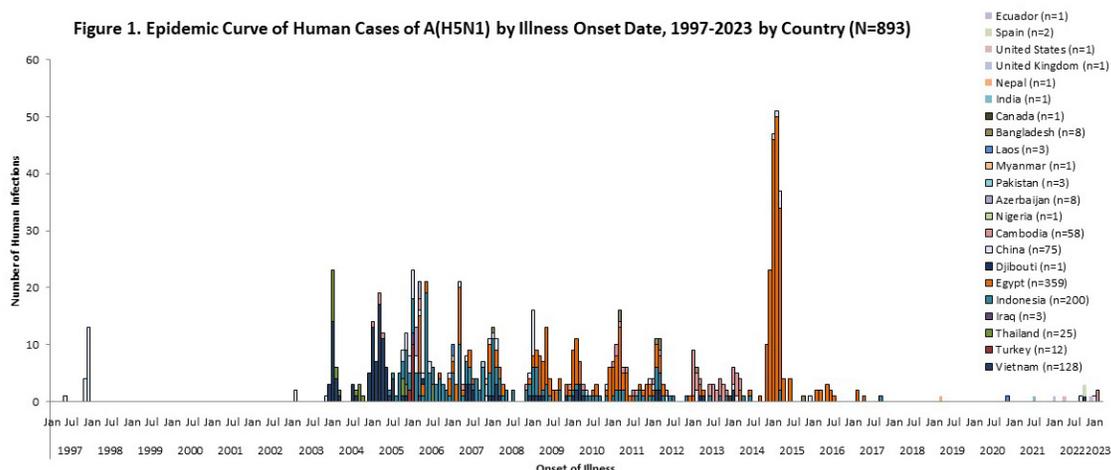
Marburg Virus Outbreak

- **WHO has confirmed two Marburg Virus Disease outbreaks in Africa:** one in Equatorial Guinea on the west coast, and one in Tanzania on the east coast. Additionally, WHO is investigating an outbreak involving Marburg-like symptoms in neighboring Burundi, which borders Tanzania.
- **Equatorial Guinea reported four additional confirmed cases, bringing the total to 34 confirmed and probable cases.** Of these, 29 have died. The cases are spread over 150km (90 miles), with uncertain epidemiological links suggests undetected community spread. WHO rates the risk as low at the global level, though very high and moderate at national and regional levels. WHO officials have expressed concern about the speed of case reporting in Equatorial Guinea.
- **Tanzania's confirmed cases remain at eight, with five deaths.** Two confirmed cases were health workers, including one death. All cases were in a single interior province neighboring Burundi.
- **Burundi provided WHO with nine alerts, including three deaths.** Initial tests for Marburg, Ebola, and dengue were negative, but sent to WHO regional labs for further confirmation. WHO states "all diagnoses are still in play".
- **WHO is working with local governments to begin vaccine and treatment trials.** WHO believes it has sufficient vaccine doses for a phase 3 ring vaccination trial.

Other News of Note

- **FDA approves first over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray,** paving the way for the opioid overdose reversing medication to be sold directly to consumers in retail locations and online. The FDA is encouraging the manufacturer to make it available quickly and at an affordable price.
- **Human cases of avian flu continue to be detected.** A H5N1 avian flu case has been identified in northern Chile. A case of the H3N8 avian flu has been identified in southern China. Only 10 cases of A(H5N1) had been identified as of March 15, including 1 in the United States.

Figure 1. Epidemic Curve of Human Cases of A(H5N1) by Illness Onset Date, 1997-2023 by Country (N=893)



Despite the current A(H5N1) outbreak affecting wild and commercial birds, along with detections in mammals, reported human cases are relatively low. Source: [CDC Technical Report](#).